

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 04892 241729Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 4892

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, IT
SUBJECT: CISL DESIRES FOR CLOSER TIES WITH AFL-CIO

1. SUMMARY. CISL CHIEF MACARIO AND THE INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE, BADUEL, HAVE EXPRESSED A STRONG DESIRE TO ESTABLISH TIES WITH THE AFL-CIO. THEY ARE HOPEFUL THAT MID-APRIL ORIT CONFERENCES IN MEXICO WILL PRESENT THE OPPORTUNITY FOR INITIATING A DIALOGUE. THEY COMPLAINED THAT CISL SEEMS TO BE SINGLED OUT FOR AFL-CIO DISAPPROVAL WHILE OTHER NATIONAL FEDERATIONS, "GUILTY" OF MORE SERIOUS "OFFENSES," ARE TREATED WITH TOLERANCE. AT THE SAME TIME, BADUEL EXPANDED AT LENGTH ON CISL'S "DILEMMA" IN DEALING WITH THE AFL-CIO'S DESIGNATED CONTACT MAN, IRVING BROWN, BASED ON THE CAMPAIGN OF EXCORIATION WHICH THE ITALIAN PRESS HAS MAINTAINED AGAINST HIM. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 ROME 04892 241729Z

2. IN A MEETING WITH CISL ACTING SECGEN MACARIO AND FABRIZIA BADUEL, CISL'S INTERNATIONAL REP, A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS WERE RAISED WITH THE LABOR ATTACHE. THE PRIMARY SUBJECT WAS THE EXPRESSION OF A SENSE OF PUZZLED INJURY OVER THE ATTITUDE OF THE AFL-CIO TOWARD THE NON-COMMUNIST ITALIAN UNIONS, AND TOWARD THE CISL IN PARTICULAR. BOTH MACARIO AND BADUEL INDICATED AN URGENT DESIRE TO MEND FENCES WITH THE AFL-CIO, OR AT LEAST

TO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO INITIATE A DIALOGUE WHICH COULD PRODUCE SUCH AN EFFECT. BADUEL POINTED OUT AT SOME LENGTH THAT THE ITALIANS APPEAR TO BE SINGLED OUT FOR CRITICISM AND EVEN OSTRACISM, WHEREAS OTHER NATIONAL CENTERS (PRESUMED AFL-CIO FAVORITES SUCH AS THE TUC AND THE DGB WERE MENTIONED) ARE MORE NOTORIOUSLY GUILTY OF THE OFFENCES WHICH OSTENSIBLY INVOKE THE AFL-CIO'S IRE. IN THIS CONNECTION, BADUEL NOTED THAT, APART FROM THE DANES, THE DUTCH AND THE FRENCH FO, THE ITALIANS WERE THE ONLY ONES NOT REPRESENTED BY HEADS OF CONFEDERATIONS AT THE RECENT EAST-WEST SOIREE IN GENEVA. SHE ADDED THAT BOTH MACARIO AND UIL'S BENVENUTO HAD EARLY INDICATED THEIR UNWILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE, AND HAD THUS EMBARRASSED CGIL CHIEF LAMA INTO ABSENTING HIMSELF.

3. AS A SPECIFIC OPPORTUNITY FOR EFFECTING A RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE AFL-CIO, THE UPCOMING ICFTU/ORIT MEETING IN CUERNAVACA APRIL 11-13 AND THE FOLLOW-ON ORIB CONGRESS IN MEXICO CITY BEGINNING APRIL 15 WERE CITED AS TARGETS. BADUEL INDICATED THE CISL DELEGATION WOULD PROBABLY BE HEADED BY EITHER MARCONE OR CREA (BOTH CISL NATIONAL SECRETARIES). MACARIO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE CISL PEOPLE COULD MEET THERE WITH SENIOR AFL-CIO REPRESENTATIVES. FAILING THIS, THEY WOULD LIKE TO STOP IN WASHINGTON AFTERWARD PROVIDING APPROPRIATE APPOINTMENTS COULD BE SECURED AT THE AFL-CIO.

4. BADUEL ALSO ELABORATED AT SOME LENGTH ON THE "DILEMMA" CISL FACED WITH RESPECT TO INVITING AFL-CIO PARTICIPATION AT THE CISL CONGRESS SCHEDULED TO BE HELD JUNE 14-19 IN ROME. THE PROBLEM WAS TO AVOID ENDING UP WITH IRVING BROWN, THE AFL-CIO'S PARIS-BASED CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 04892 241729Z

INTERNATIONAL REP, AS THE AFL-CIO DELEGATE TO THE CONGRESS. THE REASON, BADUEL WAS AT PAINS TO EXPLAIN, HAD VERY LITTLE TO DO WITH BROWN'S PERSON AND EVERYTHING TO DO WITH HIS REPUTATION AS CAREFULLY NURTURED IN THE ITALIAN PRESS, E.G., "IRVING BROWN, THE WELL-KNOWN CIA AGENT". IN FACT, BADUEL SEVERAL TIMES NOTED THAT BROWN HAD CONSISTENTLY PROVED TO MORE "FLEXIBLE" AT GENEVA, PARIS, BRUSSELS AND ELSEWHERE THAN ANY OTHER RECENT AFL-CIO INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE. SHE INDICATED THAT CISL HAD SKIRTED THIS PROBLEM BY EXTENDING AN INVITATION, PERSONALLY AND DIRECTLY, TO HOWARD MOLISANI, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ILGWU AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ITALIAN-AMERICAN LABOR COUNCIL IN NEW YORK.

5. BADUEL INDICATED THE ICFTU EXECUTIVE BOARD WOULD BE CONVENING IN ROME MAY 14-20.

6. COMMENT: THE DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE CURRENT CISL LEADERSHIP TO ESTABLISH AT LEAST A MODICUM OF RAPPORT WITH THE AFL-CIO IS CONSIDERABLE. THE MOTIVES ARE SEVERAL: LEVERAGE IN INTRO-CONFEDERAL MANEUVERING IN ITALY, WHICH THE AFL-CIO COULD PROVIDE; A WELCOME

OPPORTUNITY TO HIDE, ON OCCASION, BEHIND THE AFL-CIO IN TAKING ANTI-COMMUNIST STANDS; A FEATHER IN MACARIO'S CAP AS HE SEEKS CISL'S FORMAL ENDORSEMENT OF HIS ELEVATION TO THE TOP JOB. THE LESS THAN HEROIC POSITION ON IRVING BROWN SHOULD SURPRISE NO ONE FAMILIAN WITH ITALIAN LABOR MATTERS. END COMMENT

7. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO LEARN THE IDENTITY OF THE AFL-CIO DELEGATION TO THE CUERNAVACA OR MEXICO CITY MEETINGS.GARDNER

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